

## Message Text

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01448 01 OF 02 312049Z

61/46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 025267

R 301330Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4760

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASED SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 1448

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- T E X T --

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: MEN FOR FANK: A STATUS REPORT

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE GKR IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PREPARATIONS FOR A CENSUS TO FORM THEBASIS OF A NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORT, FEW IF ANY STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PULL IN DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS AND TO CARRY THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT PROGRAM TO THE PROVINCES. LACK OF PROGRESS SEEMS PARTLY DUE TO THE RECENT ILLNESS OF DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANH NGINN AND TO THE INEXPERIENCE OF NEW CHIEF OF JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF BUT PRINCIPALLY TO A GENERAL UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE MOVES. IN A JANUARY 28 MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER KEY POLICY MAKERS, WE OBTAINED AGREEMENT ON A GENERAL TIMETABLE FOR NEW MEASURES, WHICH MAY WELL NOT BE MET BUT WHICH WE HOPE WILL NEVERTHELESS ACCELERATE ACTION. WE ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO PRESS FOR ABSORPTION OF AT LEAST PART OF THE REPUBLICAN POLICE FORCE WITHIN FANK AND FOR CLOSER ADHERENCE TO AGREED PRIORITIES IN ASSIGNMENT OF RECRUITS TO COMBAT UNITS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF, WHOSE ENLARGED RESPONSIBILITIES AND GENERAL COMPOSITION  
SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01448 01 OF 02 312049Z

WAS CONFIRMED BY GOVERNMENTAL DECREEE ON JAN 25 PHNOM PENH 1369), BG YONG YOC HANG HAS BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH ORGANIZING HIS OFFICE, PREPARING FOR THE NEW CENSUS, AND CONSULTING WITH CONCERNED OFFICIALS (INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH ALL CITY AND

GENERAL MOBILIZATION OFFICIALS ON THE CENSUS AND WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS ON CONSCRIPTION IN THE PROVINCES). PREVIOUSLY AGREED STEPS TO ROUNDUP DESERTERS, TO SEEK OUT DRAFT DODGERS AND TO BEGIN SYSTEMATIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL RECRUITMENT/ CONSCRIPTION IN THE PROVINCES WERE POSTPONED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THAPPANA NGINN WAS TOO SICK TO MAKE DECISIONS (HE WAS INDEED BEDRIDDEN WITH HIGH FEVER), THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS TOO TENSE TO PERMIT STRONG ARM TACTICS AND THAT VERNORS HAD UNANIMOUSLY OBJECTED TO FURNISHING MEN FOR PHNOM PENH'S NEEDS. CHMEDTC AND POLMIL COUNSELOR SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, THAPPANA NGINN, INTERIOR MINISTER CHHANN SOKHUM, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL BG KIM ANN DORE, HONG QCOC HANG, NATIONAL GENDARMERIE COMMANDER COLONEL HEM SAVETH AND THEIJAIDES TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND SET NEW GOALS. FOLLOWING IS OUTCOME OF THAT JANUARY 29 MEETING:

3. CENSUS. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO USE 1,600 MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY FORMED REPUBLICAN POLICE INSTEAD OF TEACHERS AS CE TUS TAKERS. THESE POLICEMENT BEGAN A SHORT COURSE OF INSTRUCTION ON JANUARY 28 AND YONG YOC HANG HAS ALSO SCHEDULED MEETINGS THIS WEEK OF GENERAL MOBILIZATION OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE CENSUS. CENCUS WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 4 (OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT OF FORMS NOW BEING PRINTED BY 7TH PSOPS) AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED AND TALLIED WITHIN TWO WEEKS. TO COVER PERSONAL EXPENSES AND AS AN INCENTIVE, CENSUS TAKERS WILL RECEIVED 200 RIELS PER DAY AND EXTRA ALLOWANCE AND CHIEFS OF THE SOME 16,500 TEN-HOUSE UNITS 200 RIELS FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD. TO HELP ENERGIZE THE GENERALMOBILIZATION STRUCTURE, A GOVERNMENTAL DECREE IS SOON TO BE ISSUED GRANTING CERTAIN

HONORARY, BUT NOT MONETARY, REWARDS TO THESE UNPAID OFFICIALS. A CAMPAIGN TO ETPLAIN THE CENSUS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS TO OPEN ON FEBRUARY 8. COMMENT: THE PRINCIPAL WEAKNESS OF OCENSUS PLANS IS PARTIAL RELIANCE ON GENERAL MOBILIZATION OFFICIALS, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY STEMS FROM AN UNSHAKEABLE CONVICTION ON THE PART OF THE MARSHAL AND HIS JINCIPAL AIDES THAT THIS SORT OF LOCAL

SECRET

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01448 01 OF 02 312049Z

PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN PUBLIC CO-OPERATION. A MORE EASILY RESOLVED PROBLEM HAS ARISEN WITHIN THE REPUBLICAN POLICE, WHO CLAIM THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED SALARIES SINCE RECRUITMENT AND ARE NOW DEMANDING PAY BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE CENSUS.

4. DESERTS AND DRAFT DODGERS. BEFORE THE JANUARY 28 MEETING, THAPPANH NGINN HAD APPARENTLY SCRAPPED PLANS TO START PICKING UP DRAFT EVADERS ON GROUNDS THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS TOO TENSE FOR SUCH AN OPERATION AND PLANNED TO LIMIT ROUND-UP OF DESERTERS TO NATIONAL GENDARMERIE CHECKS AT CINEMAS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT MIXED TEAMS OF GENDARMERIE, NATIONAL POLICE, GENERAL MOBILIZATION

AND PHNOM PENH GARRISON PERSONNEL

WOULD SEEK OUT BOTH DESERTERS  
AND DRAFT DODGERS IN  
EACH SANGKAT. A MEETING OF THE LEADERS  
OF THESE AGENCIES IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1, TEAMS ARE TO  
BE FORMED ON FEBRUARY 2 AND OPERATIONS ARE TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY  
5. COMMENT. WE EXPECT THAT ALL INVOLVED WILL SEEK ANY EXCUSE  
AVAILABLE TO DELAY FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ESSENTIAL  
BUT PAINFUL ELEMENT OF THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM. WE WILL CON-  
SEQUENTLY MONITOR PROGRESS CLOSELY.

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01448 02 OF 02 301500Z

46  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W  
----- 002794

R 301330Z JAN 74  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4761  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
CINCPAC  
COMUSSAG

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 1448  
EXDIS  
5. CONSCRIPTION IN THE PROVINCES. CABINET MINISTERS HAD AP-  
PARENTLY ACQUIESCED TACITLY TO A UNAMOUS APPEAL BY THE GOVERNORS  
TO RETAIN ALL CONSCRIPTS/RECRUITS IN THEIR PROVINCES FOR THE  
FIRST YEAR OF THEIR TOUR OF DUTY. WHEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH  
A POLICY WERE EXPLAINED TO HIM, HOWEVER, LONG BORET DIRECTED  
THAT A CIRCULAR BE DRAFTED INSTRUCTING PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES  
TO DRAFT AND RECRUIT MEN FOR THE GENERAL RESERVE WITH ACTUAL  
ASSIGNMENT TO BE LEFT TO THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR  
PERSONNEL. WE NOTED THAT SOME PROVINCES HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE  
CADRE FOR THEIR NEW REACTION UNITS WHICH ARE TO RECEIVE RECRUITS.  
COMMENT: SPECIFIC ORDERS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ARE, OF  
COURSE, ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN WHAT IS SURE TO BE A HARD STRUGGLE  
TO GET THE PROVINCES TO IMPLEMENT CORRECTLY THE CENTRAL CON-  
SCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.

6. APPORTIONING OF NEW RECRUITS AMONG FANK UNITS. BG KIM AN  
DORE NOTED THAT THE PRACTICE OF UNIT RECRUITING INTERFERED WITH  
THE PROPER UTILIZATION OF RECRUITS NOW LEAVING THE TRAINING  
CENTERS. HE CLAIMED, IN FACT, THAT ABOUT FOUR-FIFTHS OF THESE  
RECRUITS ARE ALREADY TABBED TO GO TO SPECIFIC UNITS, MANY  
OF WHICH DO NOT HAVE A PRIORITY. THE MEETING AGREED THAT INDIV-  
IDUAL RECRUITMENT BY UNITS NOT FIGURING ON THE AGREED PRIORITY

LIST SHOULD END. COMMENT. WE HAD, OF COURSE, ANTICIPATED THIS PROBLEM WHEN THE CITY RESORTED TO UNIT RECRUITMENT IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE ACCESSIONS. THE BIGGEST OFFENDER HAS BEEN PHNOM PENH SUBDIVISION COMMANDER BG CHHIMM CHHOUM, A PROTEGE OF THE

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01448 02 OF 02 301500Z

MARSHAL. WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT THE DEVELOPING IMBALANCE BE ADJUSTED BY DISSOLVING EXISTING PHNOM PENH UNITS AND ASSIGNING THEIR PERSONNEL TO GENERAL RESERVE UNITS.

7. THE REPUBLICAN POLICE. PRIOR TO JANUARY 29 MEETING WE LEARNED FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE THAT CABINET HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE THE REPUBLICAN POLICE AS A SEPARATE ENTITY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DESPITE EARLIER ASSURANCES TO US THAT IT WOULD BE PLACED UNDER THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHILE ITS PERSONNEL WERE GRADUALLY ABSORBED INTO THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE. DESPITE OUR AND THAPPANA NGINN'S ARGUMENT THAT THE GKR COULD NOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A THIRD POLICE FORCE WHEN ITS ARMY LACKS MEN, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR REFUSED TO AGREE TO THE FORCE'S DISSOLUTION. A COMPROMISE WAS FINALLY REACHED UNDER WHICH THE REPUBLICAN POLICE WILL BE REDUCED FROM 5,000 TO 2,000 MEN WITH THE REMAINDER TO BE APPORTIONED BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE AND THE NATIONAL POLICE. COMMENT: WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT CURRENT STRENGTH OF THE REPUBLICAN POLICE IS ONLY 3,934. THIS AND PRESENT PAY PROBLEMS SHOULD HELP TO WHITTLE IT DOWN. HERE AS ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE TO WATCH CLOSELY FOR BACK-SLIDING.

ENDERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 27 JUL 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SCHOOLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PHNOM01448  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** P750001-2304, P750001-2308  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzbhq.tel  
**Line Count:** 195  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by cunninfo>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEN FOR FANK: A STATUS REPORT  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINT, CB  
**To:** STATE INFO BANGKOK  
AMEMBASED SAIGON  
CINCPAC  
COMUSSAG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005